

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**MEDICATION DISPOSAL: PRACTICES AND
KNOWLEDGE OF ITS IMPACTS TO THE
ENVIRONMENT AMONG THE COMMUNITY
PHARMACY CUSTOMERS**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

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APPROVAL SHEET

I, hereby recommend that the dissertation prepared under my supervision by Shaharuddin bin Abdul Rashid, "Medication Disposal: Practices and Knowledge of Its Impacts to the Environment among Community Pharmacy Customers" be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Pharmacy Practice from Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM.

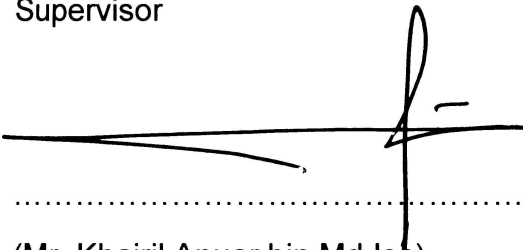


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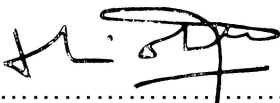


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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I, declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledge as referenced work. This dissertation has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree qualification.

I, hereby acknowledge that I have been supplied with Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

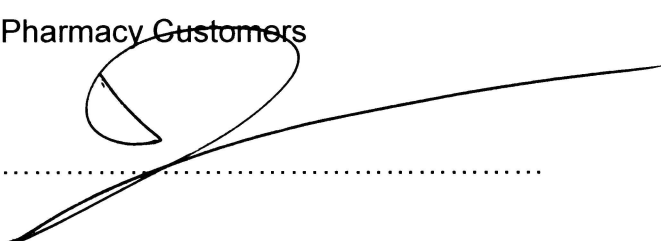
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ABSTRACT

Background: The usage of medication is increasing in Malaysia. The amount of medication being thrown away as trash is huge every year. The metabolites of each medication also being flushed down the sewage system every day. The purpose of this study is to know the disposal method of unwanted medication and the knowledge of its impacts to the environment. The study participants were the customers of the community pharmacy.

Methodology: This is a cross sectional study involving community pharmacy customers in Shah Alam Municipality, Selangor. Data was collected from April to Mei 2014'

Result: A pilot study demonstrated that the questionnaire was valid and reliable to assess the customers practice and knowledge toward medication disposal. The most utilized disposal method was to dispose as thrash either in the bottle or strip or pour out the medication from their respective containers into the trash. The customers did not agree with the statement that medication residue can harm the environment.

Conclusion: These findings showed that community pharmacy customer's medication disposal preferred method is to dispose them as trash and they did not know about the impacts of medication residue to the environment. Therefore, it is recommended that better regulations are required to ensure that the disposal of unwanted medication will no longer cause harmful impacts to the environment. The community pharmacist also need to play proactive roles in educating their customers about the harmful impacts of improper medication disposal to the environment.

Keywords: Medication disposal, community pharmacy customers, knowledge, harmful impacts, environment

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